

The Early Modern (EM) notion of 'dialect', which as yet has not received the necessary scholarly attention, poses several methodological-theoretical problems. Not only is the number of relevant types of texts huge; also the extent to which these different texts allow us to reconstruct the EM notion is problematic. Along with the issue of the representativeness of the texts, another major problem arises regarding the interpretation of the concept over different periods of time. Although we can trace basic features of the contemporary 'dialect' notion to EM times (both the scientific and everyday usage), we must refrain from projecting our modern presuppositions on the EM concept. Moreover, since the term and the concept intertwined with it are adopted and adapted from ancient and medieval (mostly Greek) sources, it is of paramount importance to have a clear understanding of the pre-EM use of the term and notion. Since we can only offer a rough sketch of the Greek concept, it is a serious challenge to fully map out the EM adaptation of the term/notion. The present paper aims at briefly addressing the abovementioned issues.